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California GARDEN

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JULY
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Planting Design
R. E. Miller



The Guava
Etta Florence Adair



Phainopepla
Frank E. Gander



Gleanings
Ida Louise Bryant



Seeds for South America
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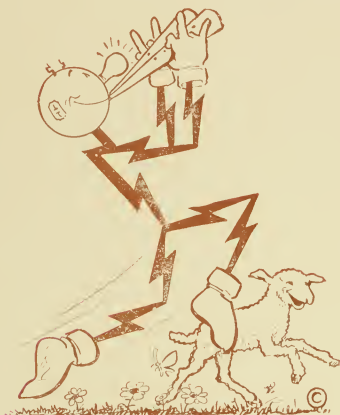
Problems of the Soil
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To Garden Lovers

"A door may open anywhere;
Upon a wood or path or lawn
Or crowded street or road, or there
Where none pass by from dawn to
dawn;
But, if you'd have a mind at peace,
A heart that cannot harden,
Go find a door that opens wide
Upon a little garden."

—E. M. Boulton.

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Planting Design—The Front Yard

By R. E. Miller

This comparatively new term, Landscape Architecture, is of some considerable scope. It is comprised of many integral parts, and planting design is among the more important factors that concerns the average home owner's landscape problems. Even with this limited subject it is difficult to set forth a full exposition of correct procedure. Consequently, this article will deal with a few basic principles dealing primarily with the front yard. Reasonable adherence to these basic concepts will do much to enhance your yard and in turn your home—and that carries some import, because that is where you live.

As the front is the more or less dignified side, one should indulge their horticultural fancies more freely in the rear. This is not an invitation to clutter up the back yard, but suggests one so well designed that it allows room for just about any type of development you wish—something that fits your mode of living.

Of primary importance and essentially a first consideration, is simplicity. Here, in this land of prolific growth, it is difficult to restrict your choice to a few well adapted and congenial varieties. This is imperative if you wish to acquire a proper setting for your house rather than to demonstrate your horticultural ability.

It hardly seems necessary to men-

tion that trite admonishment concerning the violation of open lawn centers, but one still sees examples. This applies not only to flower beds and shrubs which float sporadically in the lawn, but also to trees, especially those with small rings of flowers around the base. Your trees may, of course, be out in the lawn, but more to the sides. Their exact placement depends in a considerable measure on the type of house, but in general frame the house. Rather than balancing two similar types on each side (if more than one solitary or native clump is used), try a large or medium-sized specimen on one side and a group of several smaller ones on the other, so as to give it asymmetrical rather than geometrical balance.

A walk through the center of the lawn is justifiable if the general design or topography will not allow its entrance from the side. It seems that planting along a middle walk would be questionable. Perhaps a low effect is permissible, but if the walk is concrete I would not wish to accent it, and if it is brick or flagstone, it will speak for itself. The use of tree roses to embellish a central walk can serve no landscape purpose.* If you must have a tree rose border in the front yard, plant it near the side property line.

* Excepting a certain utilitarian if unkindly guidance to the front door when a steady hand on the arm of a friend in the dark of the moon is wanting.

Another spot where superfluous planting often occurs is at the intersection of the front door walk and street walk. If the house sets far back from the street or is decidedly above it, then such groups are desirable, especially if they flank steps. In such instances, the material must be rather low-growing and harmonize well with that in the foundation planting. It must be on the conservative side to prevent a detached appearance. On the average sized flat lot such plantings serve only to detract from the house and too often must be severely pruned to clear the walks.

In planting along the sides of the front yard, if such is not entirely incongruous in your neighborhood, several possibilities exist. A shrub border is desirable only if the lot is spacious enough to allow a double row of shrubs. This does not mean two parallel rows, as the border line can be curved so that in spots there will be one shrub and in others one or two, with a group of several smaller ones in front. These curves must be gradual, as serpentine or wiggly curves are inexorably inconsistent with good design.

Pockets in the shrub border can be planted to flowers. A concentrated spot of color with a good background of foliage is far more effective than flowers which are scattered throughout the shrubbery. When the latter condition occurs, both flowers and shrubs detract from each other, with a cluttered effect resulting.

Another and very common alternative is the hedge. Here about

the only serious mistake is the use of golden privet, the glare of which becomes very tiring when one is forced to look at it every day. Furthermore, it will completely neutralize an otherwise good effect in the house planting. *Ligustrum japonicum* for large, and *Ligustrum coriaceum* and the species *henryi* for smaller hedges, are the better privets, and of course there are many other genera with species nicely adapted to this purpose.

For the more limited yard a fence with vines occupies the least space. If the fence is of wood, do not try to cover it completely, but use the less rampant vines to merely soften it. In most cases a horizontal type of fence is more suitable for it not only accommodates vine growth, it tends to carry the eye toward the house which, after all, is the focal point of the picture.

Lastly, and the most important part of the front yard is the foundation planting. Though it is often a controversial matter, a solid shrub planting can be very pleasing and in good taste, if properly executed. If one has difficulty in restricting the choice of varieties, this type of development will of course allow more latitude. If your house has two feet or so of unsightly foundation showing, then this type of planting is almost inevitable. If the wall material extends to the ground, or if the foundation is pleasing, then a modification can be made by allowing the lawn to meet the wall here and there.

The most common type of incorrect foundation planting is typified by the ubiquitous grey leaf *Cotoneaster pannosa* and many other equally out-of-scale plants. Such varieties, even including said *Cotoneaster*, are beautiful plants if used where they can make a normal growth and beauty rather than ugly suckers from being stubbed.

Of course there are locations where larger material can be used such as to enframe the entrance or to soften the harsh corners (if corner windows do not exist). Occasionally there will be a large unbroken stretch of wall space on which a quite large open-textured

shrub can be used, yet smaller shrubs are needed around the windows and as transitional material from the larger plants to the lawn.

Though one often hears that good small shrubs are difficult to find, such is not really the case. Renewed interest in many of the

THE GUAVA

Our guava is a short form of

Guayaba, Spanish name

Of various fruits of *Psidium*.

From Indian tongues it came.

Linnaeus made it technical

When he named one guava tree

The *Psidium* guajava, back

In seventeen fifty-three.

Now *Psidium* is from the Greek.

It means to feed on pap;

Allusion to the juicy fruits

Let fall from autumn's lap.

'Tis an interesting genus of

The myrtle family,

Myrtaceae in scientific

Terminology.

The myrtles and the *Leptosperm*,

The *Eucalyptus* tall,

The glossy leafed *Eugenia*,

That reddens in the fall,

The peppery *Pimenta* tree,

All in this family stand;

Some rich in oil, or yielding gum,

Some bearing fruit for man.

And some afford us spices for

The cakes and things we eat;

Small wonder then the flavor of

The guava is so sweet.

The *Psidium* guajava is

Not planted widely here,

Tho further south, they tell us, 'tis

The guava without peer.

Feijoa Sellowiana, with

Pineapple-flavored fruit,

And *Psidium guineense*, both

Are here in good repute;

But *Psidium Cattleianum* is

The guava we like best,

The red and yellow strawberry,

The stand-by in the west.

—Etta Florence Adair.

older favorites such as *Beloperone*, *Cuphea*, *Nierembergia*, coupled with many newer ones such as *Correa*, *Chironia*, *Serissa*, *Cneorum* and the more recent varieties of dwarf *Cotoneasters*, have given us a wealth of low-growing material. You should become acquainted with some of the many newer forms to use as notes of interest in your garden. That is not to overdo it and sacrifice too many of the older proven varieties which should still constitute the backbone of the design.

Use comparatively few varieties. Except for the more symmetrical or bright-flowered accent plants, most shrubs are far more effective when massed. As an illustration, a planting might consist of twenty plants in which two or three are used as accents for the entrance and a special note of color elsewhere. The remaining number would then be composed of no more than five or six varieties.

The bulk of any planting should consist primarily of shrubs with ordinary shades of green and with more or less spreading shapes. Too many pointed plants, as well as an overabundance of those with yellow, blue-grey and red tints, will overdo themselves. This will rob the design of a feeling of restfulness and stability which are probably the more desirable conditions to be attained in front yard design.

So far, mention has been made only of shrubs as foundation material. There exists a large selection of vines from which choice can be made to create many beautiful effects. Very often, instead of a large shrub to soften an expanse of wall a vine will serve the purpose much better. In such cases, by intelligent pruning, keep the vine more of a tracery than a solid mat. Some vines, of course, cling naturally; others can be trained on thin copper wires or well-designed trellises. Consider the lines of your house when selecting a trellis. A columnar or pillar effect near a harsh corner will do much to soften such a line; or a festoon effect from the porch beam will do much to More so than shrubs, a vine, if planted when small and practically

against the foundation, lends ease to the problem of training it for the exact effect you desire. A wonderful lot of material is available in vines which can really give you something different.

In much the same category, is the use of espaliered shrubs. Naturally, when fully trained they are quite expensive, but if you have the patience, give it a try yourself. There is nothing quite so distinctive as a well-placed *espalier*, which still leaves room in front of it for further effects at a different season and in a different form.

If you do not care much for large trees, as so many Californians sadly do not, try a compromise such as *Callistemon viminalis*, *Pittosporum*

(Continued on Page 9)

THE GERANIUM SHOW

On Saturday and Sunday, June fourteenth and fifteenth, in its home in Balboa Park, the Floral Association held its annual Geranium Show, with the usual result of new friends made in mutual admiration of some special display or favorite variety of the *pelargonium* family, and in giving the public a chance to see the possibilities it has in arrangements, of which there were about fifty. In keeping quality, color, and lovely leaf pattern this humble flower is winning more notice all the time and the Association is happy to do its bit to bring it deserved attention. There were four classes in amateur arrangements and one professional.

This last class brought a special award to our old friend, Max Matousek for a beautiful and very complete display of *pelargonium* and geranium blooms. We hope that next year we can catch the season at its height to do justice to the *pelargoniums*.

One of the nicest parts of these small shows is the sale of donated plants and slips. It has the fun of a bargain sale plus the solid satisfaction of acquiring the exact plant you want, right on the spot. Mrs. Greer and her faithful committee are to be congratulated on another successful and happy show.

Alice Clark.

Bird Parade—Phainopepla

That Black Dandy of the Chaparral

By Frank F. Gander

Years before I came to California I had read about the *Phainopepla*, and intrigued by its exotic-sounding name, had looked forward to seeing the bird. So when I eventually arrived in the Golden State I was on the watch for a slim black bird with patches of white in the wings, dandified by a slender crest on the head, and with the whole set off by eyes as red as rubies. Months passed by, and then, one never to be forgotten day, I found him.

I was sitting under a liveoak in the foothills on a drowsy day in late spring when I heard a fairy-like song—a song which suggested some parts of the Mockingbird's repertoire but with a subdued, elfin quality as though it were not meant for human ears to hear. And the singer was the Black Dandy for whom I had been watching. There he sat in an elderberry tree, his resplendent plumage shining in the sunlight. With a flirt of his wings he was away in dancing flight to join his gray mate, whispering his eerie melody as he went.

Hundreds of "Peps" have I seen since then, but never again have I had such excellent opportunity to hear the song. At rare intervals I have heard a subdued phrase or two but nothing to compare with the performance of my first bird. The short call note of the *Phainopepla* is a common summer sound throughout the region of chaparral and liveoaks and even on the desert, but the song is a rarity.

Phainopeplas are abundant on the desert, too, all winter long wherever mistletoe berries are to be found, and a few winter in groves of mistletoe-infested cottonwoods along the streams that flow westward from the mountains. They first arrive in my garden in May (this year May 8), and from then on may be seen daily until late

fall, although they have never nested in my yard. They do nest near me, however, and I have hopes that some day a pair will find in one of my trees a spot to their liking and will build there. The male does most, if not all, of the building, felting a shallow cup of soft, fuzzy plant materials. This is usually in a fork, but may at times be saddled on a larger limb. Nests which I have found have been at from six to ten feet above the ground in the upper parts of tall bushes in brushy canyons or on hill-sides, but the birds also nest in liveoaks and other trees. Two, and sometimes three eggs are laid, all heavily speckled with gray. As the young birds grow, they flatten out their nest until it becomes scarcely more than a platform on which they sit.

While desert-inhabiting individuals nest much earlier, homelife for the *Phainopeplas* of my neighborhood is not over with until around the Fourth of July. Then the young are on the wing and frequent my garden in numbers, for at that time, too, elderberries are ripe. Throughout the year, berries form a large part of the diet of these birds although they do eat many insects in summer. I have seen them feeding on flying ants and termites, wheeling around and back and forth from one insect to another as though following the measures of some strange dance.

Strangeness is the keynote of the *Phainopepla's* life. His song, his nesting, his feeding habits, all place him apart from other birds, just as his name stands out among such everyday ones as House Wren, Purple Finch, and Song Sparrow.

Natural History Museum, Balboa Park.

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!*

MISS KERR STARTED SOMETHING

The timely article on "Residential Planting" by Lucia Kerr in the May number should stimulate us to see our gardens with a more critical eye. I wonder if anyone else is bothered by the hedges, particularly in Loma Portal, that end abruptly at the sidewalk, causing the houses to look as if they were pidgeon-holed? I know they are usually put in to shut out the weeds on an empty lot and to act as wind-breaks, but is that any excuse for keeping them beyond the house line, when the new neighbor has as nice a lawn and garden as yours and you are cutting off his view up and down the street as well as spoiling the contour of the whole block! Fortunately, I have not lived next to one of these extended hedges, so this is not a personal problem, but I just wonder if the owners realize when the dividing line has outlived its purpose.

A.M.C.

LET'S GO

I was surprised, the other day, to find that the planting in the Plaza, in the center of town, has always been under the care of the park department. I had always been of the opinion that it was a W.P.A. project, under the direct auspices of the Brotherly Love Cult and Come Again Bureau of Seed Savers and Exchanges, with home offices in Waukasaukata, Wisconsin, because the railroad station and freight yards there—it's on the main line of the B.P.Y. and T.—are planted EXACTLY like our Plaza.

Of course, being sort of hidden away as it is, and not many people seeing the planting, it would be wasteful to have any really nice flowering shrubs or unusual things planted there; the occasional passers-by probably wouldn't know what they were, anyway, unless they had labels. We always thought the rail-

road station at Waukasaukata looked so nice, with the cannas and calendulas.

Now we are not unappreciative of recent and very marked improvements in Balboa Park—refinements and functional changes that even this place can stand. And how many have noticed the clearing away of brush of the first exposition with vistas opening up views of bay and islands we didn't know existed?

With all the new people in town we hope they get to the Plaza soon and I'm for 'em there.—A. G. L.

JUNE MEETING

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association is an occasion which brings together an unusual number of club members. Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, presided. Included in her opening remarks she made mention of the successful "Geranium" show—the second of its kind in southern California—of the splendid list of entries and blooms of superior qualities, and of the interest and showing of good spirits of all persons taking part. With the greatly increased population of San Diego, she said, the Association membership should have an additional number.

Mrs. De Forrest Ward, secretary, gave a very commendable report, and review of the year's work. It was the busiest year ever had and a number of extra meetings were held. Mr. Frederick G. Jackson, treasurer, being absent, the report was read by the secretary.

No report was given by the House Committee—the work going on as usual.

Mr. Edward H. Culver reported the names of persons chosen by nominating committee as officers for the coming year, and all were unanimously elected. The officers of the Association are chosen by the Board of Directors—the names are published elsewhere in this issue of the California Garden.

Mrs. Clark gave a Garden Contest report with elucidation of judging gardens.

The speaker, Mr. Frank F. Gander, curator of botany of the Natural History Museum—well-known through the pages of California Garden for his interesting articles on plant life, and highly pleasing ornithological stories—took his audience, in imagination, for a stroll through his unique garden of California natives, at Lakeside, 21 miles east of San Diego, where the soil, he said, greatly surpasses that of San Diego, for the wild flowers.

The rocky character of the portion of land in its pictorial aspect makes a natural home for the many species of wild flora. Mr. Gander has 300 different kinds of native plants which he said is only a small part of the number known. He also displayed many native specimens, and club members, visitors and gardeners who were privileged to hear his talk were enthusiastic and eager to carry out some of the native plant suggestions in their own gardens.

Some of the species mentioned by Mr. Gander were—Monkey-flower or Mimulus, handsome plants of which there are several varieties; Pentstemons of many kinds including some of the handsomest and conspicuous western flowers; Daisies—including Sea Dahlia, Coreopsis maritima—and the plant merits a place in the garden for its beauty; Sages—a very large family of the Mint family and of which San Diego County has many unusual species; Native Honeysuckle; Indian Pink, *Silene laciniata*, with

Hattie Rumble-shucks

says EC-LECTICS is a swell word . . . it goes back to the McGuffies Readers some of us knew. It means that you don't plant Pittosporum undulatum under the bay window and that cement is steadier under a garden table than flaeving; that dry-lovin' plants should go into dry ground and that certain others stand longest in adobe and should be used there. She guessed, after all, just thinkin' covers it pretty well and that's why so many bind-sights clutter up our front yards when they ought'a be dunked in the bay. .

handsome conspicuous flowers, clear vermilion or pinkish-scarlet; Thistles, *Carduus Californicus* and *C. occidentalis*, very handsome and decorative plants; Common Sage-Brush, *Artemisia* (Old Man) with pale and beautiful foliage; Hen-And-Chickens—*Dudleya* *Sheldoni*; the plants are familiar to most of us as some of the species are extensively cultivated in our gardens as border plants; Loco-Weed, *astragalus leucopsis*, numerous species; (*Lotus*) Deer-weed, *hosackia*, graceful willowy plants set with golden-yellow flowers, ornamental as brooms we grow in our gardens. Some annuals and perennials are *Collumia*, several kinds, which are mountain plants; Lupines, stately plants; Snapdragons, handsome though rather coarse, hairy; Bed-straw, the common name, comes from a tradition that the manger of the Infant Christ was filled with these plants; and rose pink *Gentians*, also known as *Conchalagua* and which is blooming profusely at the present time.

Mr. C. J. Jerebek was welcomed by the audience after an absence of several months, and with many fine specimens of shrubs and plants, gave a talk which is always a treat for floral lovers.

Beautiful and generous specimens were brought by Mr. and Mrs. Hermance from their well-favored garden—one, the Yellow Alder having clusters of bright yellow blooms resembling the *Bignonia* blossoms.

Mrs. Neff Bakkers described exquisite blooms of *Epiphyllum* and she suggested that San Diego have a mile of them as is seen in Honolulu.

The House Committee served refreshments and a social hour closed the meeting.

G. M. G.

The germ of the currently popular slogan—"It is later than you think"—is an inscription on a sun dial in the heavily bombed county of Kent, according to Homer Dodge, an erudite Washington correspondent. It reads, "It is later than that." It appears to mean that, even while gazing at the dial to ascertain the hour, some little time has fled.

Cleanings from the Magazines

By IDA LOUISE BRYANT

In the FLOWER GROWER for May an article called "New Ways to Use Scented Geraniums," with the accompanying photograph of a leaf each of twenty varieties is enlightening. Here at last, is a chance to identify those old-fashioned rose geraniums by name; we have all known that there were five or six distinct kinds, each with its own delicate perfume, like that of none of the others.

The day has not yet come when the perfume of the flower in the picture can be wafted to the reader's nostrils, in the fantastic manner of certain films, in which pictures of lovely forests, for example, have seemed to project the odor of pine and cedar out into the audience, merely by the addition of a bit of synthetic oil to the fresh-air stream. But won't it be heavenly when the day does come! And with these connivings at witchcraft today by science and industry, who is there to say, "Impossible!" Imagine the deliciousness of looking through the catalogues and sniffing at the new roses: like schoolgirls at a perfume counter, "Oh smell this one! Isn't this lovely? Let's get this red one! But we'll never get the fun out of it here in California that they will back in Michigan or Massachusetts, with the wind howling around the corners and the snow beating against the pane. The contrast that true art, even seed catalogue art, demands, will be lacking.

Also in the FLOWER GROWER, a short article on good edging plants by a working gardener from Colorado; and a paper written by J. Horace McFarland on March 10, he notes, "with 13 inches of fresh snow," all about the Merry Month of May in the Garden. In speaking of looking to a May bloom, in spite of garden under snow, he says: "Any good gardener lives 20 per cent in the past, 40 per cent in the present, and at least the other

40 per cent in the future. That garden he is going to have as his dreams either come untied or come true is a wonderful garden!" In the parlance of the vulgar, "Ain't it the truth!"

He speaks of hoping to find *Rosa* *rouletti* blooming for him in May, with its delightful miniature flowers, the jewels of the rose garden. Our Miss Sessions admired them greatly, and we remember with what pride she took a perfect little cluster of the tiny blooms, in a flame shade, from her carton of specimens in gardening class one day. This two-inch stem soon took root in our rooting box, and is now a sturdy little bush, another bit of remembrance from an inspiring teacher.

Those fortunate souls who were enrolled in her garden classes during those last years have tangible treasures, as well as those of memories, to remind them of Miss Sessions every time they go into their gardens—many a choice plant and shrub came from her generous hands. It was her custom to have a drawing, as she called it, for the various specimens she had brought in from her nursery, some to illustrate points in her lecture, but most of them to give us because she loved to give. Small slips were numbered, one for each member, duplicate slips were tucked into the pots, and with great glee she would read off the number of the treasure; the claimant came up to receive it, together with a word of advice as to location and garden practice for growing it successfully. Aristotle, with his "what we have to learn to do, we learn by doing," would have approved of this sort of teaching. On one of our lucky days (although any day in Miss Sessions' company was that) we drew a blooming plant of *Epidendrum obrienianum*, and received with it her comment, "These separate flowerets are just right for a gentleman to wear in his buttonhole, and will keep fresh all day; men should have a chance to wear orchids, too."

In HOLLAND'S for June, we find the description of a new garden tool that is probably much more useful than many of the gad-

gets bestowed on defenseless gardeners; a transplanting tool which brings the plant out with a ball of earth, hardly knowing that it is being moved at all. Which sounds simple and practical, provided, of course, that there isn't a set of gears, a chain belt and three oil cups to keep filled, on the thing.

GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for June has in its Gardeners' Forum (this from Massachusetts—nothing so frivolous in the way of a title for the reader letters as Complications and Comment, here) a letter from a reader regarding a previous article on plant labels. He speaks of the inadequacy of ink labeling, out-of-doors, as compared with the lasting qualities of lead pencil markings. Graphite being practically insoluble, labelings should be permanent, and are not only because weather attacks the surface of the wood. Celluloid, mat finish, with lead pencil markings should remain in perfect condition for five years or more, according to the writer. We suppose that everybody has known about it for years, but we just recently discovered that wood labels, pencil marked and dipped into household paraffine are fairly permanent. (or does "fairly permanent" fall into the same category as "something unique"? Oh, to be cast away on a desert island with a copy of Fowler's Modern English Usage; one's return to civilization then could be marked by a free, fearless striding between literary pitfalls that now beset one on all sides!)

In **GOLDEN GARDENS** for June-July our readers will find a very-much-to-the-point description of the eternal conflict between the garden designer and the gardener. It is especially apropos after our May issue article, Residential Planting, and the next month's Echo from La Mesa with a hearty "Amen." The old, old question: Is your garden going to have a plan, few plants carefully chosen, right for that spot, plenty of open spaces, or will you let fancy run wild with the newest thing from China, just a little corner of succulents, that handsome scandent shrub from

(Continued on Page 9)

Problems of the Soil

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

FLEAS

Question: Nearly every summer we are troubled with fleas in the house. As yet we have found nothing that really gets rid of them. Have you any suggestions you can make that might help us?—Mrs. E. W.

Answer: The first move one should make is to prevent infestation, as far as possible. Usually domestic pets bring fleas into the house. Flea eggs are laid on the carpets or rugs or on the mats the pets sleep on. The mats should be shaken or cleaned daily to rid them of eggs and larvae. The pets themselves should be frequently rid of fleas by dusting with some good flea powder or with some such material as sodium fluoride, rubbing it into their coats thoroughly. Floors can be cleaned with a "dry" mop moistened, not soaked, with kerosene, reaching all parts of the floor in all parts of the house, repeating every few weeks during the summer. Carpets or rugs will usually be rid of fleas and their larvae if thoroughly vacuumed.

Another good remedy consists of scattering pyrethrum powder or naphthalene flakes, or powder, over the rugs and floors and allowing to remain for 24 hours and then going over the rooms thoroughly with a vacuum sweeper.

A combination spray—or mop—of rotenone (derris) and pyrethrum used on infested rugs is very effective. Commercial preparations containing these materials are sold by practically all insecticide dealers. Used at the rate of 4 or 5 teaspoonfuls to the gallon of water and rubbed over rugs with a sponge or cloth will surely kill by contact all stages of fleas.

WEEDS

Question: Please advise the name of some material to kill weeds and Bermuda grass in a driveway. I have tried oil but with indifferent success.—S. J. R.

Answer: A saturated solution of rock or common salt applied hot and in sufficient quantity will kill most types of weeds and grass. It should be remembered that this solution will sterilize the soil for a number of years and, of course, injure the roots of nearby plants that may happen to be in the area. Sodium arsenite is a powerful weed killer and will also more or less permanently injure the soil if used in large amounts. There are commercial weed killers on the market, most of them containing sodium arsenite, that are intended to be sprayed on unwanted plants. The soil will not be injured by them nor roots of plants nearby, unless they are applied in much greater quantity than necessary. Your insecticide dealer can give you complete information concerning them.

NATIVE PLANTS

Question: I have a new place in the country and have plenty of space for native plants. Will you please give me the names of some of the best and also let me know where I can buy them?—D. R.

Answer: A list of "best" plants is probably a matter of opinion, more or less. You do not state your altitude, and this has an important bearing on the plants to use. The lilacs are always good, *Ceanothus cyaneus* and *C. arborescens*, blue flowered, and *C. integrifolius*, white flowered. The *C. cyaneus* is a really fine lilac, blooming freely much of the time. It has deep blue flowers. *Fremontia mexicana*, a gorgeous yellow-flowered shrub or small tree, blooms in the spring. No native plant garden would be complete without one.

Other good natives are the tree poppy, *Dendromecon rigida*, a yellow-flowered shrub of rather free blooming habit; the Matilija poppy, in bloom at this time; the Toyon or California holly; the lemonade berry, *Rhus integrifolia*; the wild

cherry, *Prunus ilicifolia* or *P. integrifolia*; and the *Carpenteria*, *C. californica*, a beautiful shrub with large, fragrant rose-like flowers. There are many others, of course, as the Azaleas for the higher elevations and the so-called Coffee Berry, *Rhamnus californica*, also growing in the mountains.

You might consult any of the nurserymen whose names have been sent you for a more complete list.

SNAPDRAGONS

Question: My snapdragons have rusted badly this year. I have sometimes had trouble with them but more this year than for a long time. Is there any remedy for this disease?—Miss E. O.

Answer: Plant diseases, as might have been expected, are very much in evidence this season. The long continued winter rains and damp, foggy spring have led to this condition. Snapdragons will rust under normal conditions, it seems, and this year the disease seems to be intensified. That is, unless the rust-resistant varieties have been planted. There is very little, if anything, that can be done to overcome the disease in the non-resistant varieties except to fertilize freely to stimulate growth and avoid draughty situations for the beds. There is constant improvement being made in the rust-resistant varieties and before long the greatest drawback to these beautiful flowers will have been entirely removed. When you buy more seed, or plants, specify the rust-resistant.

PLANT OR WHAT?

One of the most interesting questions received this Spring, according to Dr. Miller, of the California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, was sent from Hayward, California, and asked "What is the difference between a plant and an animal?" In answering this one, Dr. Miller pointed out that there were many living things on the borderline, and Science cannot positively say whether these are plants or animals.

Seeds for South America

By J. MORTIMER SHEPPARD

The Pan American Society of Tropical Research has, the last few weeks, distributed thousands of good-will seed packets from the United States to Ecuadorean home owners and farmers. To the home owners went seeds of North American flowering plants designed to beautify the parks and boulevards of Quito, capitol city of Ecuador. To the farmers went packets of Hopa crabapple seeds which are believed to be suitable for growing in the Andean highlands.

The Society announces that next it will distribute seed packets of the North American Loblolly Pine, intended to supplant Australian Eucalyptus which is now the only lumber-producing tree in the Andes. The Pan American Society in Quito, Ecuador, gives out these seed packets without charge or obligation to Ecuadoreans.

Next, the Society wants to make a wide-spread distribution of vegetable and fruit seeds throughout ALL of South America. The co-operation of United States citizens is requested in this worthwhile movement. All interested garden club groups or individuals who wish to aid in making seeds of food-value plants available to the republics of South America are urged to send their seed donations to the Pan American Society of Tropical Research, Casilla 315, Quito, Ecuador. Vegetable seeds are especially needed. Your seed donations will be received and inspected by the Society's botanists, repacked and sent out for free distribution through prominent newspapers and Departments of Agriculture in every South American Republic. These, in turn, will distribute the seeds to the people of the respective nations on a basis of no charge whatever and no obligation incurred. Spanish-printed pamphlets will go with the seeds to indicate best propagation methods, and to inform each recipient that they are a GOOD-WILL gift from citizens of the United States.

This movement, instituted by the Pan American Society of Quito, is not formulated because of starvation in South America, but rather that the southern continent may start preparations for famine conditions that are certain to follow the world war. It may well be assumed that the vast acreage of South America can produce sufficient fruits and vegetables to supply the hungry populations of war torn nations later on, when starvation stalks those unfortunate countries.

The average South American small farm owner is poor in actual cash. Most South American governments have very small gold reserves. It is therefore impossible for these farmers to purchase seeds, and their present crops of vegetables and fruits desperately need the advantage of new types from the United States.

Rather than employ the methods of the Department of Agriculture which generally confine their ac-

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tivities to research work, pest control and the printing of countless pamphlets, the Pan American Society believes that it's plan of actually distributing free seeds of food plants will accomplish far more in averting starvation during the years to come.

The Society will continue to send seeds of flowering South American plants to garden lovers of North America upon receipt of ten cents to cover postage and handling costs, but the principal objective of the Society is the altruistic movement of obtaining and distributing, absolutely free, millions of seeds to the small farmers of South America. In this work, the Society asks for no financial aid but only that well-wishers of Latin America who wish to do so, contribute vegetable, fruit and tree seeds that the Society will distribute at its own expense.

By: J. Mortimer Sheppard, Director, Pan American Society of Tropical Research, Casilla 315, Quito, Ecuador, South America.

RARE PLANT GRACES MANY HOMES

A once rare plant, *Tolmiea Menziesii*, changed its name and almost over night became a popular favorite. W. Lieb, a horticulturist with a flare for new finds, "discovered" the rare *Tolmiea* in a customer's house where it had been brought from Scotland. Intrigued with the plant's unique habit of reproducing itself, not from seed or shoots forming at the roots but by actually growing young plants at the base of the old leaf, he obtained a leaf and started to cultivate these plants, convinced that they would have wide popular appeal. Not until Mr. Lieb had grown some 15,000 plants did he seek a new name for it or a distributing source. His young daughters suggested the most apt name calling it the "Piggy-Back" plant from its growth habit of seeming to grow one leaf on top of another.

Graceful in growth, carefree in its reaction toward dust, general air impurities, and lack of humidity in rooms, it makes the ideal house plant. It is very hardy and does

not even demand sunlight and so fits in admirably to room decoration the year round. In the outdoors, this plant grows luxuriantly in window boxes as well as in shady places in the garden during summer. Its one need is for water and sufficient space for its roots to grow comfortably.

Found by Dr. Archibald Menzies, who discovered it when accompanying Captain Vancouver on the voyage of the "Discovery" in the 1790's, it received its generic name of *Tolmiea* in honor of Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, medical officer of the Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver, Puget Sound, in 1832, and its specific name of *Menziesii* after its discoverer. Considered a rare plant until just recently, it has been known under many sobriquets such as "Mother of Millions," "Friendship Plant," but its new name, "Piggy-Back," is one which is so apt that it will doubtless be known by it.

Anyone can propagate "Piggy-Back"—or "Pick-A-Back"—plants by merely removing a leaf with its plant and placing it in rooting medium, such as soil or sand in a pot, though equal parts of leaf mold, peat moss and garden soil are to be preferred. Children have fun watching the leaves develop and in seeing the young plant "riding" on the older leaves, and it is equally intriguing to the amateur or professional gardener. Every leaf sprouts a young plant that can be made to grow on its own.

The plant has luxuriant dark green foliage against which the lighter green of the young plants contrasts pleasingly. It is very graceful, whether used in a pot, hanging basket, window box or planted in the open, and holds the interest and attention in a way not achieved by any other plant.—G. N. S.

OCHROMA SCARCE

The balsa tree (*Ochroma*) grows faster than any other. It reaches a diameter of 15 inches in five years and has a very fast height growth. This is the source of the balsa-wood of a small boy's toy airplane.

BUILD YOUR FOUNDATIONS FIRST

Soil is the medium in which plants grow, just as air is the medium in which animals live, or water is the medium in which fish live. If air or water is pure, animals or fish thrive in their natural medium provided they have food and, in the case of the animals, drink. And, similarly, if soil is in good physical condition and free from harmful substances, as acids or alkalis, plants thrive in this natural medium, provided they have proper food and moisture. It is evident then that such a physical condition of soil as will make that soil favorable to the growth of plants is a matter entirely separate from the question of plant food.

The best physical condition of soil is invariably the result of the incorporation of sufficient vegetable matter with broken down rock, which may be in any form from fine gravel to clay. No par-

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ticular kind of vegetable matter is absolutely essential. Nature builds soil through the use of any kind of plant life which will grow in a particular location. This plant life grows and dies during centuries of time and eventually forms an excellent soil medium. A farmer with a considerable acreage sows cover crops of various kinds and plows them under and, after a period of some years, produces a proper physical condition of the soil. The gardener uses manure or peat moss or leaf mold and, when a sufficient amount is thoroughly mixed with ordinary dirt, it will produce a soil condition almost overnight such as Nature produces during centuries or a farmer produces over a period of several years.

Soil in proper physical condition is loose and workable, holds sufficient moisture yet permits thorough drainage, absorbs moisture readily, permits the free passage of air, permits plant roots to pass freely through it. The stickiest clay or the hardest adobe or sand may be transformed into the finest loam by the proper use of these materials. But remember—use enough and mix it thoroughly with the soil from the top down. Use plant food too if the soil is not fertile but don't confuse the need of vegetable matter with the need of fertilizer.—J. A. G.

IN CITY'S HISTORY

Even the oldest residents of San Diego have marveled at the rainfall in San Diego this winter. Almost 25 inches has set the record of being the second wettest season in the history of the city. Those of us who went through the '16 flood and the 1921-22 flood noted with relief the relatively small damage done this year and of course there is inestimable good in that all the reservoirs in the County are filled and overflowing, the ground is thoroughly saturated and of course the underground water level will be much higher.

Ashes of burned United States money can be analyzed and redeemed.

GLEANINGS

(Continued from Page 6)
Uganda (but it is so lovely . . . those delicate, exotic looking flowers, and it blooms practically all the time) that picturesque blue spruce like the one Aunt Tillie has in the middle of her lawn in Kansas City? The lively dialogue described did not end up in a row—the phrase, "once a friend, now my landscape gardener," does not hold here. The exchange of ideas ended in a compromise, and after all, that's what most every garden is, most of life, is.

SUNSET for June tells us in Exterior Decoration that landscape gardeners are changing their vocabulary; words like privacy, protection and enclosure have taken the place of axis and balance. We cannot help comparing the article, with its photographs of six beautiful outdoor living rooms, with one on the same topic in a fine Eastern garden magazine, to the disadvantage of the latter. The writer asserts that a pixie will add real charm to even the smallest garden. In the stern words of the small boy we know best, "We doubt that severely."

PLANTING DESIGN

(Continued from Page 3)
rum phillyriaeoides or Chamaelaucium ciliatum. Though frequently grown as large shrubs, they can be trained easily into small light and airy trees. Being of an open nature, they can be planted quite close to the building, serving the dual purpose of tree and shrub. They are quite effective against a large wall space, and can be used to advantage slightly to the side of large windows, where a few graceful tips will create a distinctive shadow effect on the window pane.

Now, when you see some other yard which is well designed and appeals especially to you, do not try to borrow ideas intact, but acquire them rather as suggestions. Principles of design are fundamental, but no two houses and no two yards are alike, so each one constitutes many individual problems which can only be solved by intelligent planning.

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